

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 2800

Application No. 10/730,162

Paper Dated: August 17, 2009

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of May 22, 2009

Attorney Docket No. 4444-032065

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 22, 2009 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment cancels claims 21 and 22, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are pending in this application, and claims 1, 14, 15, and 17 are in independent form.

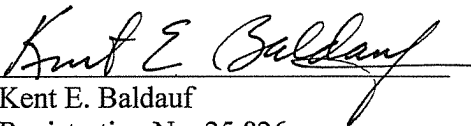
The Examiner is thanked for allowing claims 1, 2, and 4-20. Further, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, on pages 4 and 5.

In the Action, claims 21 and 22 stand rejected. In particular, claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the previously-cited Ward patent, Mizone patent, and Nishimura reference. Further, claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Ward patent, Mizone patent, Nishimura reference, and the previously-cited Ogura patent. As discussed above, and through the foregoing amendment, both claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of these claims is moot.

Through the cancellation of claims 21 and 22, the remaining claims include claims 1, 2, and 4-20 (with claims 1, 14, 15, and 17 in independent form). The Examiner has indicated that all of claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are allowed. Therefore, this Amendment places the application in fully allowable form. If any additional modifications are required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to ensure compliance therewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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